PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders,—by 19th inst., for the erection of a district church in Brompton, Middlesex: by 21st inst., for the erection of a new vicarage-house, &c., at St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire; by 21st inst., for building 800 feet of brick sewer at Notting-hill; by 16th inst., for sinking a well, and other works, in High-street, Norton-folgate; by 28th inst., for the erection of an engine-house, boiler-house, &c., at the water-works, Stone Ferry, near Hull; by 28th inst., for the construction and erection of pipes and fittings for the baths and wash-houses now building in Treppet-street, Kingston-upon-Hull: by 21st inst., for the erection of additional buildings at Hambledon Workhouse; by 24th inst., for the supply of granite, gravel, &c. to the parishes of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. George's, Bloomsbury; by a date not specified, for the erection of a chapel at Gunthorpe, in connection with the parish of Lowdham, Nottingham; by 17th inst., for repairs to Middle-bridge, Romsey Infra; by same date, for executing certain works at various public building in Southampton; and by 16th, for the supply of British iron, bellows, &c., for the East-India Company.

COMPETITION.—Premiums of 15*l.* and 10*l.* are offered for the two best plans for repewing that portion of Northfleet Church, Kent, at present pewed, and pewing that portion not hitherto pewed.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—On the 8th inst., the discussion on Mr. Crampton's paper, "On the Construction of Locomotive Engines," was continued, without arriving at any definite result, other than that it was desirable in all engines to lower the centre of gravity, in order to establish a great angle of stability, and to arrive at a ratio between the circumference of the driving-wheel and the cubic content of the cylinders, such as whilst the greatest speed might be maintained with an economical consumption of fuel, every facility should be afforded for starting rapidly. A short paper was read, describing a kind of permanent way, which had been somewhat extensively laid down on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, and other railways, in the north of England, by Mr. Hawkshaw. The principle was that of a bridge rail, weighing seventy-five pounds per yard, placed upon continuous longitudinal timber bearing, and the novelty consisted in having at each joint a malleable iron plate chair, with a projection on the upper surface, fitting within the interior of the rail, and the flanches, which were fourteen inches long by eight inches wide, and half an inch in thickness, attached to the rail by rivets in such a manner as to fix them firmly together, and yet to allow for the expansion and contraction caused by the variations of temperature. The paper announced to be read at the next meeting of Tuesday, May 15th, was "On the Theory of Transverse Strain of Cast-iron Beams," by Mr. W. T. Doyne.

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.—A meeting of this institution was held on May 8th, the Rev. George Pocock, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. W. H. Rogers exhibited two elaborately carved boxwood friezes executed by his father for her Majesty the Queen; also a curious ancient vase of "faience de Nevers" and a Byzantine figure of the Blessed Virgin, of the 12th century, both the property of Messrs. Falcke, together with an enlarged drawing, taken by himself, from the coronet of the figure, showing the care and taste which in the middle ages were expended on the minute details of works intended for sacred use. Mr. C. H. Smith offered some observations on the great importance, for the sake of truth, of preserving all records of date or origin which may attach themselves to such relics as the figure contributed by Messrs. Falcke, and urged it as the duty of the society to inquire into the histories of any similar objects exhibited at its chapters. Mr. G. R. French then delivered a discourse on "Roman Architecture."

A VALUABLE PICTURE has been discovered at Leeds, according to the local *Intelligencer*, in one long deemed valueless. It is said to be one of Gerard Lairope's. The subject (the Abduction of Ariadne, by Bacchus), consists of twenty-two figures, grouped and painted in the manner of Nicholas Poussin.

BRICK DUTIES.—I was glad to see, in a late number, the smallness of the amount received from the duty on bricks. I hope that it will induce the Government to relinquish the duty as early as possible, as it causes the bricks to be twice the price they would be if free from duty, and prevents persons making them where they intend building, which would be done in many cases if it could be done without having the exciseman to contend with, which few men with small capital choose to risk. I have many times carted brick-earth away from places where there has been a basement story with cellars to the buildings, and had bricks brought 70 miles, by water, besides having to pay for unloading, cartage, &c., which cause great waste of time and materials. We know that it is the wish of most persons to improve the condition of the working man, and many plans have been mentioned as likely to do so: I know of no step so likely to do this as the repeal of this duty, as we know that most of the working classes are laudably anxious to have a house of their own, and would exert themselves every way to get one, which is proved by the number of building societies established amongst us. It would also benefit the ground landlords very materially, by causing land now letting as grass land for 5*l.* or 6*l.* per acre to be worth 50*l.* or 60*l.* per acre, besides the reversion, which would be the case if the cost of building was lowered, as it would enable persons to make roadways to ground lying a distance from the public roads. It would also give scope to the enterprise of our industrious middle classes, and instead of calling upon them to leave the land of their birth to improve other lands, they might benefit their own.— • • •

EXCISE INFORMATION AGAINST A BRICK-MAKER.—On Wednesday, at the Wolverhampton Public Office, before John Leigh, G. B. Thorneycroft, and John Barker, Esqrs., Mr. John Guest, brickmaker, of West Bromwich, was charged by Mr. Coomber, Supervisor of Excise, with wilfully concealing about 7,000 bricks, with intent to defraud her Majesty's revenue. Besides the penalty, the information sought a forfeiture of upwards of 20,000 bricks, which were alleged to have been used in concealing the 7,000. The magistrates, however, did not consider the proof on this point sufficient to warrant them in declaring the bricks to be forfeited, and after hearing Mr. T. M. Whitehouse for the defence, fined the defendant in the mitigated penalty of 25*l.*

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.—The general meeting of the members of this institution was held in the theatre of the Birmingham Philosophical Institution on Wednesday week, Mr. Robert Stephenson, M.P., the newly-appointed president, in the chair. Mr. Baines, of Norwich, entered into explanations relative to his improved railway chairs and switches. A paper by Mr. Wealleus, of Newcastle, "On an Express Locomotive Engine" was read, and was followed, as some of the other papers were, by a lengthened discussion. A paper, by Mr. Henry Smith, of West Bromwich, "On a new Solid Wrought-iron Wheel," was then read, and a vote of thanks accorded. The next paper was "On the Construction of Permanent Way," by Mr. Hoby, of Brighton. A paper, by Mr. Ramsbottom, of Manchester, "On an Improved Locomotive Boiler," was postponed till next meeting. A number of new members were balloted for and elected.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH COMPETITION.—I observe in a retired page of your journal, which sometimes does not in the far west reach us till three or four days after publication,* an extension of time in Bridgewater Church competition. Being one of the parties who hurried his plans in by May 1, I naturally demand what is the use of this public advertisement on the 5th, unless to advantage some favoured individual. The time given was ample, even for designing a new church. Pray, Mr. Editor, plead for fair play for us in that voice wherewith you are wont to espouse the cause of competing architects generally, and for which you have the cordial thanks of yours faithfully, A GREAT WESTERN.

* This is the fault of the parties through whom it is obtained.—ED.

SANITARY INQUIRY AT BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. Rawlinson proceeded on Monday week to complete his adjourned inquiry, as surveying inspector for the Board of Health. Various parties were heard as to local nuisances, and a discussion took place as to boundaries. The state of the Worcester Canal and its vicinity was complained of, and Mr. Beilby blamed "parties so indiscreet as to take land at a high price for building purposes, without requiring the owner to make any provision for drainage." A deputation from the new board of guardians attended. The inspector, in asking for returns, &c. from them, observed that as we had carried our civilisation so far as to take good care of our paupers and criminals, the Board of Health would now take good care of those who were honest. The inquiry itself was formally closed on Wednesday, but during the rest of the week Mr. Rawlinson was engaged in a personal inspection of the town and outlying hamlets, more especially with a view to determine the boundaries within which the Sanitary Act shall be brought into operation.

SALE OF WORKS OF ART AT ROME.—It is said that upwards of 40 boxes, containing sacred vases, marbles, statues, and pictures, have been sequestered by the French custom-office. These articles were purchased at Rome by an association of German Jews, formed at Frankfort, under the direction of M. Brucker. The advantageous terms on which Mr. Francis Warton had obtained the Virgin and Angels of Benvenuto Cellini had excited the cupidity of all the merchants of works of art. The catalogue of articles sold by the Revolutionary Government of Rome amounts, it is said, to 2,500; they only produced 3,000,000*f.*, although worth 10,000,000*f.* at least. Their restitution will not be easily effected, though the names and addresses of the buyers *are* inscribed on the margin of the catalogue.

IMPORTANT TO HOUSE-AGENTS.—At Nisi Prius, before the Chief Baron, a case was recently tried which mainly turned on the fact that the plaintiff, proprietor of a furnished house to let, while employing a house-agent, also made personal inquiries as to the sufficiency of the means of a tenant, and expressed herself satisfied; on which the agent, after also making inquiries, let the house. It shortly afterwards appeared that the tenant was insolvent, and had even been in confinement immediately previous to the letting. Plaintiff therefore claimed compensation for neglect on the part of defendant; but the judge appeared to be of opinion that the plaintiff was quite out of court, having inquired herself, and the jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

GUILDFORD DRAINAGE PLANS.—After long hesitation, the various plans for the drainage of Guildford, sent in competition, were submitted by the Committee to Professor Hosking for examination, to assist them in making the award. It will be seen by an advertisement that three plans have been selected for final consideration, marked "Pioneer," "Specula," and "C. Engineer."

NOTICE.

ON May 1st was published, Part I., price 2*s.* 6*d.*, of "BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIÆVAL:" being Illustrations of recently-erected Edifices, and of some of the Architectural Works of the Middle Ages, with Descriptive Particulars. Edited by George Godwin, F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects, &c.

The first part of this work (to be continued every alternate month) contained Engravings on Wood, folio size, of—

Her Majesty's Marine Residence, Osborne; with Plan.
The Carlton Club House, Pall Mall.
Church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburgh: with Details.
Kensington Union Workhouse.
The Liverpool Branch Bank of England; and Details.
The New Throne, Canterbury Cathedral.
The North Porch, Restored, of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.
The Interior of Lincoln's-Inn Hall.

Published at the Office of "THE BUILDER," 2, York-street, Covent Garden.

To learn about OCR and PDF Compression go to our website